

CLAIMS

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1. In an electrical system of power distribution for use with railroad passenger cars having a receptacle connector that includes an elastomeric lip, the combination with said receptacle connector of a support ring embedded in the elastomeric lip.

2. A rigid support ring molded into an elastomeric connector lip of a railroad receptacle connector, comprising;

(a) means for providing a rigid support ring adapted for insertion into said elastomeric connector; and

(b) wherein said means for providing a support ring includes at least one edge thereof that includes an outer radius.

3. The rigid support ring of claim 1 wherein said means for providing a support ring includes a raised portion that extends around at least a portion of the circumference thereof.

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4. A method for forming an elastomeric receptacle connector for use in supplying electrical power to a railroad car, which comprises the steps of:

- (a) placing a support ring proximate a lip of said receptacle connector; and
- (b) surrounding at least a portion of said support ring with an elastomer.

*Add 22*